

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A block for constructing a retaining wall, the block comprising:  
5 a top surface;  
a bottom surface spaced a predetermined distance from said top surface;  
a front surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and  
horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent;  
a rear surface spaced a predetermined distance from said front surface, the rear  
10 surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and  
horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent; and,  
side surfaces spaced apart from each other, with each side surface extending  
vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally between  
said front and rear surfaces, and with each side surface comprising a  
15 plurality of facets;  
wherein the facets of the side surfaces that are closest to said rear surface of  
said block are in substantially parallel planes .
2. The block of claim 1, wherein the lateral extent of said front surface is greater  
20 than the lateral extent of said rear surface.
3. The block of claim 1, wherein said bottom surface further comprises a projection  
extending downwardly therefrom, the projection having an abutting surface configured

and arranged to contact the rear surface of a lower course of blocks when said block is placed thereon, the abutting surface operating to position said block in a predetermined relation relative to the lower course of blocks on which it is placed.

5     4.     The block of claim 3, wherein said abutting surface extends substantially between said side surfaces.

5.     A block for constructing a retaining wall, the block comprising:  
a top surface;  
10     a bottom surface spaced a predetermined distance from said top surface;  
a front surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent;  
a rear surface spaced a predetermined distance from said front surface, the rear surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and  
15     horizontally in a predetermined lateral extent; and,  
side surfaces spaced apart from each other, with each side surface extending vertically between said top and bottom surfaces and horizontally between said front and rear surfaces, and with each side surface comprising a plurality of facets;  
20     wherein one facet of one of the side surfaces is substantially co-planar with one facet of the other side surface.

6.     The block of claim 5, wherein the lateral extent of said front surface is greater

than the lateral extent of said rear surface.

7. The block of claim 5, wherein said bottom surface further comprises a projection extending downwardly therefrom, the projection having an abutting surface configured and arranged to contact the rear surface of a lower course of blocks when said block is placed thereon, the abutting surface operating to position said block in a predetermined relation relative to the lower course of blocks on which it is placed.

8. The block of claim 7, wherein said abutting surface extends substantially between said side surfaces.

9. The block of claim 1, wherein the facets of the side surfaces closest to said rear surface of said block are substantially perpendicular to the rear surface of said block.

10. The block of claim 1, wherein at least one of the facets of at least one of the side surfaces is substantially parallel to the rear surface.

11. The block of claim 1, wherein one facet of one of the side surfaces is substantially co-planar with one facet of the other side surface.

12. The block of claim 1, wherein the facets of at least one of the side surfaces forms a shoulder defining an inwardly inset sidewall.

13. The block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is free from vertices that extend substantially from the top surface to the bottom surface.

14. The block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is substantially curvilinear.

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15. The block of claim 5, wherein a forward facet of one of the side surfaces extends at an obtuse angle towards the rear surface the block and intersects one end of one of the co-planar facets, and wherein a rearward facet of one of the side surfaces extends from its intersection with the other end of the co-planar facet towards the rear surface in  
10 a direction substantially perpendicular thereto.

16. The block of claim 5, wherein the substantially co-planar facets of the side surfaces are substantially parallel to the rear surface of the block.

15 17. The block of claim 5, wherein at least one of the side surfaces further comprises a facet oriented at an obtuse angle relative to the rear surface.

18. The block of claim 5, wherein the facets on at least one of the side surfaces form a shoulder extending inwardly of the block towards the other side surface and  
20 comprising one of the coplanar facets.